

LOUISIANA TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS FUND - PROGRESS REPORT

March 1, 1999

I DEPARTMENT/AGENCY

Louisiana State University - Eunice

II PROJECT TITLE

Extending the Campus Walls: Providing Anytime-Anywhere Access to Academic and Support Services to Improve Student Success and Satisfaction.

III PROJECT LEADER

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IV DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The goal of the project is to create a single integrated on-line environment that will provide the student with anytime-anywhere access to the following services:

- Web based access to student data and services.
- Complete access to on-line library resources
- The ability to communicate with all campus offices through the use advanced messaging technologies including voice, email, and group conferencing initiatives.
- The ability to access degree audit and advising information on-line through these same intuitive interfaces in an effort to increase student satisfaction in this area.

Access to these services will be made available via a combination of custom designed Kiosks as well as Internet ready workstations. The true innovation of this proposal is the integration of these services under a single, secure, user-friendly interface while exploiting the capabilities and availability of current campus technologies.

These on-line services will allow prospective students to perform tasks from researching available programs to applying for admissions and continue on through the financial aid process and actually registering for classes. This program will truly be extending the University to the student. LSUE seeks to provide a level of service to its area citizens that has not yet been experienced in this state and possibly only in a very few locations throughout the country.

V PROJECT STATUS

A. Brief Summary

Work on the project is proceeding nicely. While we have experienced the occasional unforeseen problem none have been out of the ordinary or insurmountable. Two members of the project team will be attending training on integration and customization of the admissions, registration, and faculty student web modules during the last week of March. The university is actively promoting the project throughout the campus as well as

the community. All of those involved are genuinely excited about the potential reach this Anytime-Anywhere project brings to the community.

B. Accomplishments

- All Server hardware has been received and installed.
- All software except for the Citrix Winframe package has been received and installation is underway.
- The CIS Web Applications have been licensed and training scheduled.
- Kiosk Hardware design has been selected and the RFP for their acquisition is in progress.
- Basic Interface prototyping is complete. The design has been well received by those involved.
- Initial assessments and modification specifications to allow the First Class Conferencing / email software to operate inside the kiosk interface has been completed.

C. Problems Encountered/Action Taken or Planned

- **Server Hardware:** Changes to the packages offered by Dell as well as the obsolescence of previous selected models caused variations in the cost originally specified in the Grant. The budget information given below shows that two of the servers appear to have come in under budget while the third was over. The telephony gateway which shows to be over budget was due to the introduction of a newer model and the discontinuing of the original presented in the proposal. Dell has also dropped the UPS (uninterruptable power supply) from all of their packages. These will have to be purchased separately and have not yet been ordered.
- **Software:** Changes in the licensing structure for the First Class Collaborative Classroom software have caused a considerable increase in its overall cost. This however will be offset by the extensive savings realized in the purchase of the CARS web applications. This large savings was due to a special promotion currently in progress.
- **Kiosk Units:** While we had hoped to begin the bidding procedures for these units by early February delays in identifying a suitable cabinet design coupled with an extended leave of absence by our purchasing agent due to illness has put us slightly behind. We do not see this as a setback to the overall implementation of the project. The RFP for these units should go out within the next 5 to 10 days.
- **Before using cost savings to cover extra expenses incurred approval was requested from Ms. Renea Austin. Approval was granted under the condition that funds were spent only on items contained within the original proposal.**

D. Major Milestones (Original vs. Current Estimate)

- All server hardware and software requiring customizations has been ordered and received. Installation and customization is underway.
- Training for the CIS Web Applications has been scheduled.
- The design of the physical Kiosk cabinet has been selected.

VI COST VS. BUDGET

	<u>Category</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Projected Surplus</u>
A.	Equipment	116,547.00	25,210.00	None at this time
B.	Software	57,075.00	44,676.00	To be determined
C.	Telecommunications	2,800.00	Not Yet Done	None
D.	Professional/Contract Services	N/A	N/A	N/A
E.	Other Costs	N/A	N/A	N/A

Total Project Cost

176,422

69,289

Not yet None

- Grant purchases have not yet been completed. Therefore, an accurate comparison of totals cannot yet be made. The Detailed Expenditures below provide a clearer picture of current purchases.

VII ITEMIZED EXPENSES AND FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS INCURRED DURING THIS REPORTING PERIOD

Item	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Equipment			
First Class Internet Classroom Server. Dell PowerEdge 4300 with dual Pentium II 450Mhz Processors, 256MB Ram, 13.5GB RAID 0 Storage, DDS Tape Backup, 100MB NIC, UPS Dell Computers - LSUE PO #R605436	1	\$ 9,811.00	\$ 9,811.00
Citrix Winframe Server. Dell PowerEdge 4300 with dual Pentium II 450Mhz Processors, 512MB Ram, 4GB RAID 0 Storage, DDS Tape Backup, 100MB NIC, UPS Dell Computers - LSUE PO #R605436	1	\$ 9,171.00	\$ 9,171.00
Vocaltec IP / Telephony Gateway Server. Dell PowerEdge 2300 with Pentium II 333Mhz Processors, 128MB Ram, 4GB RAID 0 Storage, DDS Tape Backup, 100MB NIC, UPS Dell Computers - LSUE PO #R605436	1	\$ 5,138.00	\$ 5,138.00
Dialogic D/21H DSP Board for Vocaltec IP / Telephony Gateway	2	\$ 545.00	\$ 1,090.00
Telecommunications			
None in this category for this period			
Software			
CIS Edvanta Web Registration Module	1	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
CIS Edvanta Web Admissions Module	1	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00
CIS Edvanta Web Faculty/Student Module	1	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
First Class Internet Classroom Server Software	1	\$ 9,099.00	\$ 9,099.00
Vocaltec IP / Telephony Gateway Software	1	\$ 4,080.00	\$ 4,080.00
Total Expenditures Through March 1, 1999			\$ 69,889.00